

Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph beginning at page 124, line 35, has been amended as follows:

--Percent amino acid sequence identity may also be determined using the sequence comparison program NCBI-BLAST2 (Altschul et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 25:3389-3402 (1997)).
~~The NCBI BLAST2 sequence comparison program may be downloaded from~~
~~<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>.~~ NCBI-BLAST2 uses several search parameters, wherein all of those search parameters are set to default values including, for example, unmask = yes, strand = all, expected occurrences = 10, minimum low complexity length = 15/5, multi-pass e-value = 0.01, constant for multi-pass = 25, dropoff for final gapped alignment = 25 and scoring matrix = BLOSUM62.--

The paragraph beginning at page 127, line 16, has been amended as follows:

--Percent nucleic acid sequence identity may also be determined using the sequence comparison program NCBI-BLAST2 (Altschul et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 25:3389-3402 (1997)).
~~The NCBI BLAST2 sequence comparison program may be downloaded from~~
~~<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>.~~ NCBI-BLAST2 uses several search parameters, wherein all of those search parameters are set to default values including, for example, unmask = yes, strand = all, expected occurrences = 10, minimum low complexity length = 15/5, multi-pass e-value = 0.01, constant for multi-pass = 25, dropoff for final gapped alignment = 25 and scoring matrix = BLOSUM62.--

The paragraph beginning at page 232, line 30, has been amended as follows:

--A cDNA sequence isolated in the amylase screen as described in Example 2 above was found, by BLAST and FastA sequence alignment, to have sequence homology to a nucleotide sequence encoding sarcoma-associated protein SAS. This cDNA sequence is herein designated DNA23020 (see Figure 16). The DNA23020 sequence was then compared to a variety of expressed sequence tag (EST) databases which included public EST databases (*e.g.*, GenBank) and a proprietary EST DNA database (LIFESEQ™, Incyte Pharmaceuticals, Palo Alto, CA) to

identify existing homologies. The homology search was performed using the computer program BLAST or BLAST2 (Altshul et al., Methods in Enzymology 266:460-480 (1996)). Those comparisons resulting in a BLAST score of 70 (or in some cases 90) or greater that did not encode known proteins were clustered and assembled into a consensus DNA sequence with the program "phrap" (Phil Green, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; <http://bozeman.mbt.washington.edu/phrap.docs/phrap.html>). The consensus sequence obtained therefrom is herein designated DNA35858. Two proprietary Genentech ESTs were employed in the assembly wherein those EST sequences are herein identified as DNA21971 (Figure 17; SEQ ID NO:38) and DNA29037 (Figure 18; SEQ ID NO:39).--

The paragraph beginning at page 274, line 32, has been amended as follows:

--A cDNA sequence was isolated in the amylase screen described in Example 2 above and is herein designated DNA13199 (Figure 134; SEQ ID NO:332). The DNA13199 sequence was then compared to a variety of expressed sequence tag (EST) databases which included public EST databases (e.g., GenBank) to identify existing homologies. The homology search was performed using the computer program BLAST or BLAST2 (Altshul et al., Methods in Enzymology 266:460-480 (1996)). Those comparisons resulting in a BLAST score of 70 (or in some cases 90) or greater that did not encode known proteins were clustered and assembled into consensus DNA sequences with the program "phrap" (Phil Green, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; <http://bozeman.mbt.washington.edu/phrap.docs/phrap.html>). The consensus sequence obtained therefrom is herein designated as DNA22778.--

The paragraph beginning at page 275, line 31, has been amended as follows:

--A cDNA sequence isolated in the amylase screen described in Example 2 above was herein designated DNA37642 (Figure 137, SEQ ID NO:338). The DNA37642 sequence was then compared to a variety of expressed sequence tag (EST) databases which included public EST databases (e.g., GenBank) and a proprietary EST DNA database (LIFESEQTM, Incyte Pharmaceuticals, Palo Alto, CA) to identify homologies therebetween. The homology search

was performed using the computer program BLAST or BLAST2 (Altshul et al., Methods in Enzymology 266:460-480 (1996)). Those comparisons resulting in a BLAST score of 70 (or in some cases 90) or greater that did not encode known proteins were clustered and assembled into consensus DNA sequences with the program "phrap" (Phil Green, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; ~~http://bozeman.mbt.washington.edu/phrap.doos/phrap.html~~). The consensus sequence obtained is herein designated DNA48615.--

The paragraph beginning at page 309, line 25, has been amended as follows:

--A cDNA isolated in the amylase screen described in Example 2 above is herein designated DNA26832 (Figure 220; SEQ ID NO:516). The sequence of DNA26832 was then used to search expressed sequence tag (EST) databases. The EST databases included public EST databases (e.g., GenBank) and a proprietary EST database (LIFESEQTM, Incyte Pharmaceuticals, Palo Alto, CA). The search was performed using the computer program BLAST or BLAST2 (Altshul et al., Methods in Enzymology 266: 469-480 [1996]). Those comparisons resulting in a BLAST score of 70 (or in some cases 90) or greater that did not encode proteins were clustered and assembled into consensus DNA sequences with the program "phrap" (Phil Green, University of Washington, Seattle, ~~Washington~~; ~~http://bozeman.mbt.washington.edu/phrap.doos/phrap.html~~).--

The paragraph beginning at page 311, line 17, has been amended as follows:

--Human thrombopoietin (THPO) is a glycosylated hormone of 352 amino acids consisting of two domains. The N-terminal domain, sharing 50% similarity to erythropoietin, is responsible for the biological activity. The C-terminal region is required for secretion. The gene for thrombopoietin (THPO) maps to human chromosome 3q27-q28 where the six exons of this gene span 7 kilobase base pairs of genomic DNA (Chang et al., Genomics 26: 636-7 (1995); Foster et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91: 13023-7 (1994); Gurney et al., Blood 85: 981-988 (1995). In order to determine whether there were any genes encoding THPO homologues located in close proximity to THPO, genomic DNA fragments from this region were identified and

sequenced. Three P1 clones and one PAC clones (Genome Systems Inc., St. Louis, MO; cat. Nos. P1-2535 and PAC-6539) encompassing the THPO locus were isolated and a 140 kb region was sequenced using the ordered shotgun strategy (Chen et al., Genomics 17: 651-656 (1993)), coupled with a PCR-based gap filling approach. Analysis reveals that the region is gene-rich with four additional genes located very close to THPO: tumor necrosis factor-receptor type 1 associated protein 2 (TRAP2) and elongation initiation factor gamma (~~eIF4~~) (eIF4g), chloride channel 2 (CLCN2) and RNA polymerase II subunit hRPB17. While no THPO homolog was found in the region, four novel genes have been predicted by computer-assisted gene detection (GRAIL)(Xu et al., Gen. Engin. 16: 241-253 (1994), the presence of CpG islands (Cross, S. and Bird, A., Curr. Opin. Genet. & Devel. 5: 109-314 (1995), and homology to known genes (as detected by WU-BLAST2.0)(Altschul and Gish, Methods Enzymol. 266: 460-480 (1996) (<http://blast.wustl.edu/blast/README.html>)).--

The paragraph beginning at page 312, line 33, has been amended as follows:

-- ABI DYE-primerTM chemistry (PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA; Cat. No.: 402112) was used to end-sequence the lambda and plasmid subclones. ABI DYE-terminatorTM chemistry (PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, Cat. No: 403044) was used to sequence the PCR products with their respective PCR primers. The sequences were collected with an ABI377 instrument. For PCR products larger than 1kb, walking primers were used. The sequences of contigs generated by the OSS strategy in AutoAssemblerTM (PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA; Cat. No: 903227) and the gap-filling sequencing trace files were imported into SequencerTM (Gene Codes Corp., Ann Arbor, MI) for overlapping and editing. The sequences generated by the total shotgun strategy were assembled using Phred and Phrap and edited using Consed (<http://chimera.biotech.washington.edu/uwgc/projects.htm>) and GFP (Genome Reconstruction Manager for Phrap), version 1.2 (<http://stork.cellb.bcm.tmc.edu/gfp/>).--

The paragraph beginning at page 313, line 18, has been amended as follows:

--The identification and characterization of coding regions was carried out as follows:

First, repetitive sequences were masked using RepeatMasker (A.F.A. Smit & P. Green; http://ftp.genome.washington.edu/RM/RM_details.html) which screens DNA sequences in FastA format against a library of repetitive elements and returns a masked query sequence. Repeats not masked were identified by comparing the sequence to the GenBank database using WUBLAST2.0 [Altschul, S & Gish, W., Methods Enzymol. 266: 460-480 (1996); <http://blast.wustl.edu/blast/README.html>] and were masked manually.--